

No Better Time Than Now to Find a Job!

Hawai'i has enjoyed the lowest or next-to-lowest unemployment rates in the nation over the past several years, with 60,000 jobs created since December 2002. This means there is a labor shortage. This means more job opportunities for you.

Isle jobless rate lowest ever

"If Hawai'i employers thought it was hard to find qualified workers before, they might not want to look at the latest unemployment numbers from the state. Hawai'i's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate plunged to an all-time low of 2.1 percent in October, marking the third straight month that the state had the lowest jobless figure in the nation, according to data released yesterday by the state Department of Labor and Industrial Relations. – *Honolulu Star-Bulletin*, Nov. 22, 2006

Hiring hunt is on at Blaisdell job fair

The state's largest job fair saw a record number of recruiters yesterday – 197 – including 20 who have never had to search for employees at the Job Quest job fair before. "We never recruited," said Randy Suen, human resources director for O'ahu Transit Services Inc., which operates TheBus. "Now we have to go and look for them."

Thousands of vacancies yesterday were aimed at entry-level workers in the \$10-per-hour salary range, but even those jobs often included full medical, dental and vision benefits plus company-matched 401(k) funds. – *Honolulu Advertiser*, Sept. 20, 2006

Where are the employees?

Larry Kee made money from the Baskin-Robbins ice cream store he ran for a decade in the Hawai'i Kai Towne Center, but had to shutter it last month when he couldn't find workers. "We tried hard to keep it open, but physically we just couldn't do it," Kee said. "It was a profitable store, a profit-making store, but there was no way we could continue. We just don't have the abundance of people applying for jobs like several years ago. They just weren't available." – *Honolulu Advertiser*, July 16, 2006

Fair brims with entry-level jobs

Recruiters also said that entry-level workers who show personality and promise can move up quickly in Hawai'i's economy. Alden Tottori, 23, started out as a server at Shokudo Japanese Restaurant and Bar on Kapi'olani Boulevard three months ago and is now a server manager. Yesterday, operations manager Sanson Eligio proudly pointed to Tottori as an example of how inexperienced employees can quickly get on a management track. "If the person has a passion, we can develop them as far as they want to go," Eligio said.

Marilyn Abalos, carrying her 11-month-old son, Kamakana Tisalona-Perez, turned in a P.F. Chang's application and said she would consider "anything." P.F. Chang's recruiters talked about perks such as a 401(k) program that the company will match after one year, free set meals per shift and a 50 percent discount on items that employees order from the menu. "The good thing for us is we don't require experience," said Bob Crowley, P.F. Chang's director of Hawai'i operations. "We hire personalities." – *Honolulu Advertiser*, May 25, 2006